



## MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

**April 2017 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. MNS member Dave Hunsicker will talk about Milwaukee Transportation Collectibles.**

**President:** Justin Perrault  
**Secretary:** John Bleidorn  
**Sgt. at Arms:** Jeff Gaffke  
**Trustee '17-'19:** Dave Hunsicker  
**Librarian:** Joe Paonessa

**Vice President:** Jim Heinrich  
**Treasurer:** Lee Hartz  
**Trustee '15-'17:** Tom Dallmann  
**Trustee '16-'18:** Gary Bieringer  
**Newsletter editor:** Leon Saryan

**Mailing address:** c/o PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224-9028

**Newsletter material:** c/o PO Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006 [LASaryan@aol.com](mailto:LASaryan@aol.com)

**Web Site Address:** [www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com](http://www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com)

***The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). Our annual coin show is held in October.***

**March Coin of the Month:** This month we are offering an attractive PCGS encapsulated 1959 Roosevelt SILVER dime, graded MS64 with fully struck bands. This coin is a real bargain at the starting price of only \$12, less than the cost to slab the coin. Be prepared to bid high to win this beautiful conservatively graded almost 60-year old coin!



## April 2017 MNS President's Message

For those of you that have signed up to assist at this year's Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic, thank you. For those of you that missed out on this opportunity, it is still not too late. The clinic is coming up on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the South Shore Coin Club's show venue at the Airport Crowne Plaza, 6401 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, south of the airport. Please let me or Leon S know if you are able to assist. Volunteers will be meeting at 7:00 AM. Help will be needed to set up, check in the Scouts, and grade their tests. At the end of the day your work will be rewarded with a complimentary lunch and the satisfaction that you have passed along the world of numismatics to the next generation.

The presentation at our next meeting will be by our very own Dave H, who will be speaking about a topic that is very near and dear to him, Milwaukee Transportation Collectibles. The speaker at our last meeting ran a little long given the unique topic, so I apologize for those members who brought something for show and tell but were unable to present. Please feel free to bring your items to this month's meeting and there should be time to accommodate member presentations.

Don't forget that our club's bus trip to the Schaumburg Central States show is right around the corner. Keep in mind that it takes place on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and leaves from the Park & Ride lot on the southbound lanes of I-94 at College Avenue (SW corner) promptly at 8:00 AM. The next meeting will be last call for this event, and we still have several seats remaining on the bus. Skip all the hassles of Chicago-land traffic and take advantage of this free ride down to one of the Midwest's premier annual coin shows. With an excellent bourse to buy from and an abundance of educational programs, you are guaranteed a great day of coining!

I have some sad news to report that just came my way. MNS recently lost longtime member Betty Petrovick. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Betty will always be remembered for her easygoing demeanor, sense of humor, and diligent efforts in rallying exhibitors and judges for our annual coin show. For many years she also served as faithful organizer of membership records and dues collecting. Betty's presence at the meetings enriched everyone's lives and she will be missed. During this difficult time, my deepest condolences go out to all of her friends and extended family (see elsewhere in this issue for a remembrance of Betty Petrovick).

In closing, enjoy the pursuit of collecting, but even more importantly, enjoy the company you keep and the friends you make along the way. Throughout the journey it is the common tie of numismatics that binds us and enriches us as a collecting community.

Happy Collecting,  
Justin J. Perrault  
[masters1122@yahoo.com](mailto:masters1122@yahoo.com)  
262.613.9996



# MN\$ 2017

## Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

## Monthly meeting programs

Jan 19:	Officer Inductions
Feb 16:	Open
March 16:	Rev. Paul Bulgerin: Numismatic Archaeology
April 20:	Dave Hunsicker: Milwaukee Transportation Collectables
April 27:	CSNS Bus Trip (8 AM-5 PM)
May 18:	Spring Auction
June 15:	Open
July 20:	Tom Casper: Collecting, Buying, and Selling on eBay
Aug 17:	NO MEETING
Aug 19:	Summer Outing at Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear
Sept 21:	Open
Oct 19:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 16:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 21:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

## Annual Dues

Dues for 2017 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

## 2017 Numismatic Events

April 7-8	South Shore Coin Club show, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza
April 8	MNS Boy Scout Clinic, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza (volunteers gather at 7 AM)
April 9	Fox Valley CC Show, Darboy Club, Appleton
April 26-29	CSNS Coin Show Renaissance Convention Center Schaumburg, IL
April 27	MNS bus trip to CSNS Coin Show
May 7	Sheboygan CC Annual Show, Kohler, The Village at 170
October 1	MNS Coin Show, Serb Hall 9 AM – 4 PM

## Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrwig
Feb:	Jim Heinrich
Mar:	John Bleidorn
Apr:	Tom Dallmann
May:	Justin Perrault
Jun:	Open
Jul:	Open
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

## PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

# Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes  
March 16, 2017

President Justin Perrault called the 977th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:01 PM. There were 30 members and 1 guest in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by: Howard T, Gary B, Tom R, Dave H, Rose Ann M, Dave H, Bob B, Justin P, Josh W, Bruce B, Don K, Harry S, John B, Jim H.

**Coin of the Month:** Steve J won the coin of the month, an encapsulated 1900-S Barber Half Dollar with a bid of \$17.00.

**Guest Speaker:** The Rev. Paul Bulgerin spoke about his participation in a Roman historical site excavation at Vindolanda in Great Britain, and also showed several Roman coins in his collection, explaining the Latin inscriptions along with the history of the Roman emperors. The speaker was presented with an MNS medal by Pres. Perrault (photo elsewhere in this issue).

**Treasurer's Report:** N/A

**Correspondence:** Numismatist magazine, letter from Kevin Foley about the Central States convention, NOW writer's award competition winners were Tom C. & Bruce B.

**Newsletter:** Newsletter articles are always appreciated.

**Membership:** New applicants Mary Olinger and Charles Waldvogel were approved as new members.

**Photo op:** Bruce Benoit, coordinator of the 2016 Fantasy Numismatics game, presented member Don Kaminsky with his third place award, a silver coin (photo elsewhere in this issue).

**Central States Coin Show Bus Trip:** Seats are still available for the Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> bus trip to the Central States show. The bus will depart the SW corner College Avenue at I-94 park & ride lot at 8 AM. The bus will depart the show to return to Milwaukee at 5 PM, returning around 7 PM. The bus is free for MNS members, non-members will pay \$10. Riders should reserve seats.

**May Auction:** Please submit your auction listings to Leon S by April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 8:47 PM by President Perrault.

**Respectfully submitted by John Bleidorn, Secretary**



**Betty Petrovick  
IN MEMORIAM**

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society is sad to announce to death of long-time member Betty Petrovick. Elizabeth (Betty) D. Petrovick passed away on March 25, 2017 at the age of 78. She was MNS life member #74. She attended almost all the MNS meetings with her friend Henry Javorsky who passed away last year. She was an avid collector of anything and everything concerning Chinese panda bears.

Betty was MNS Membership Chairwoman who collected the dues and kept membership records. For many years, she was the Exhibit Chairwoman at our show. Her job consisted of getting exhibitors, recruiting judges, purchasing awards for exhibitors and presenting the awards at our annual banquet. She and Henry spent the entire show watching over the exhibit area. Having educational exhibits are important and sets us apart from many other one-day coin shows. Her efforts helped make our coin show great. Betty owned and operated the Avenue Photo store, 7500 W. Greenfield Avenue in West Allis. She offered the use of her store each year when the show committee met to plan the annual show.

Betty was also a member of Hobbies Unlimited and the South Shore Coin Club. She became a life member of SSCC in 1991 and held offices in SSCC of President and Vice-President. Betty was a dedicated club member and volunteer and will be greatly missed.—Tom Casper

**Petrovick, Elizabeth  
D.**



"Betty"

(nee Wysocki)  
Born to Eternal  
Life on March 25,  
2017 age 78  
years. Loving  
wife of the late Robert W.  
Petrovick and mother of  
Sandra (Myron) Karno,  
Sharon (the late Mark) Lies,  
Barbara (Jon) Palma and  
Steven (Dawn) Petrovick.  
Grandmother of Nicholas  
(Janna), Morgan, David,  
Stephanie, Katherine, Megan,  
Robert and Ashley. Great-  
grandmother of Eleanor. Sis-  
ter of Kenneth (Sandy)  
Wysocki, Gladys Oblock, Mary  
Ann (Ron) Mantsch and the  
late Raymond Reed. Sister-in-  
law of Shirley Munsey. Also  
survived by nieces, nephews,  
other relatives and many  
friends.

Betty was the owner of Ave-  
nue Photo in West Allis, a  
member of Hobbys Unlimited  
and the Numismatic Society  
of Milwaukee.

Visitation on Thursday, March  
30th., 5 to 7 PM at the  
Raasch-Raetz Funeral Home,  
7709 W. Burleigh Street and  
again on Friday, March 31st.,  
at Mary Queen of Heaven  
Church, 2322 S. 106th. Street  
beginning at 9 AM followed  
by the Mass of Christian Bur-  
ial at 11 AM. Private inter-  
ment at Holy Cross Cemetery.  
In lieu of flowers memorials  
can be made to the Rheuma-  
toid Arthritis Foundation.

RAASCH RAETZ  
7709 W. BURLEIGH STREET  
414-445-7404





# World War II Silver in West Allis

By Dave Herrewig

There has never been a United States Mint in West Allis, Wisconsin, but in 1943 and 1944 there could have been one. The amount of silver that passed through the city in those two years surpassed the combined usage of the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints (for the same years) by a large margin.

I had never heard this story of silver until my wife's book club was reading *The Girls of Atomic City*, the story of women who worked on the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She mentioned that the narrative involved an enormous loan of silver from the Treasury Department for the project. The Manhattan Project led to the building of the first atomic bomb, the one dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

I started reading and learned that the final manufacturing process before Oak Ridge was at Allis Chalmers in West Allis. What intrigued me most was the huge amount of silver that went into and out of the area. My first thought was that this was a huge melt of silver coins, but it appears that only ingots were used, from the West Point Bullion Depository in New York. Cameron Reed, a physics professor at Alma College in Michigan, has done extensive research on this project and I have relied substantially on his material.

Once the decision was made to pursue an atomic bomb, one question was how to produce enough enriched uranium. The process selected required massive amounts of copper for the windings of the required electromagnets. Copper was in high demand during the war, so silver was selected as a substitute. Without getting into the physics of the process, one needs to know that the silver could make coils which were used to produce a high-intensity magnetic field needed to separate out the critical uranium 235 isotopes.

The War Department would not inform the Treasury Department of the exact use for the silver, but still obtained over 29 million pounds from the West Point Depository. The final total consisted of over 400,000 bullion bars, each about 1,000 fine troy ounces. I'm not certain if the ingots were 0.999 fine but eventually the silver ended up at that level of purity. The metal went first to a refining plant in Carteret, New Jersey where the amount was actually *increased* with extremely careful cleanup processes which recovered metal lost there in previous years. From there it went to a nearby Phelps-Dodge plant where the final product was coils of silver strips about the size of large car tires.

Most all of this was sent to Allis Chalmers in West Allis, though a small amount went directly to Oak Ridge. The shipments to Allis Chalmers were in sealed cars, all under 24-hour supervision by armed guards. In West Allis, the coils were unwound, combined into larger coils, and wrapped around the steel spools of the magnet casings. This operation took place between February, 1943 and August, 1944. All the work was at the Hawley Works, a roughly two-and-a-half block long building that faced Hawley Road at W. Pierce Street.

Extra security was not needed for the silver once it left Allis Chalmers for Oak Ridge as the coils were inside welded-shut steel casings. When finished, Allis Chalmers produced 940 coils, each about 14 tons. Professor Reed lists Allis Chalmers as producing 27,418,294 pounds of silver magnet coils and 268,745 pounds of silver busbars (conductors); a total of 27,687,039 pounds as a comparison figure with the US Mints. Using figures from the 2016 Red Book, I calculated that during the same years the three US Mints used 2,642,429 pounds of pure silver for nickels; 4,022,002 pounds for dimes; 4,063,059 pounds for quarters and 3,763,535 pounds for half dollars; a total of 14,491,025 pounds. Allis Chalmers processed almost twice as much silver as the US Mints!

I haven't read the Milwaukee or West Allis papers for this period but would guess that there wasn't any mention of the nature of this project at Allis Chalmers. In fact, most of the 5,000 employees in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, didn't know what they were working on, either. An interesting note is that President Franklin Roosevelt made a surprise visit to Allis Chalmers in September, 1942, five months before this project began. The company

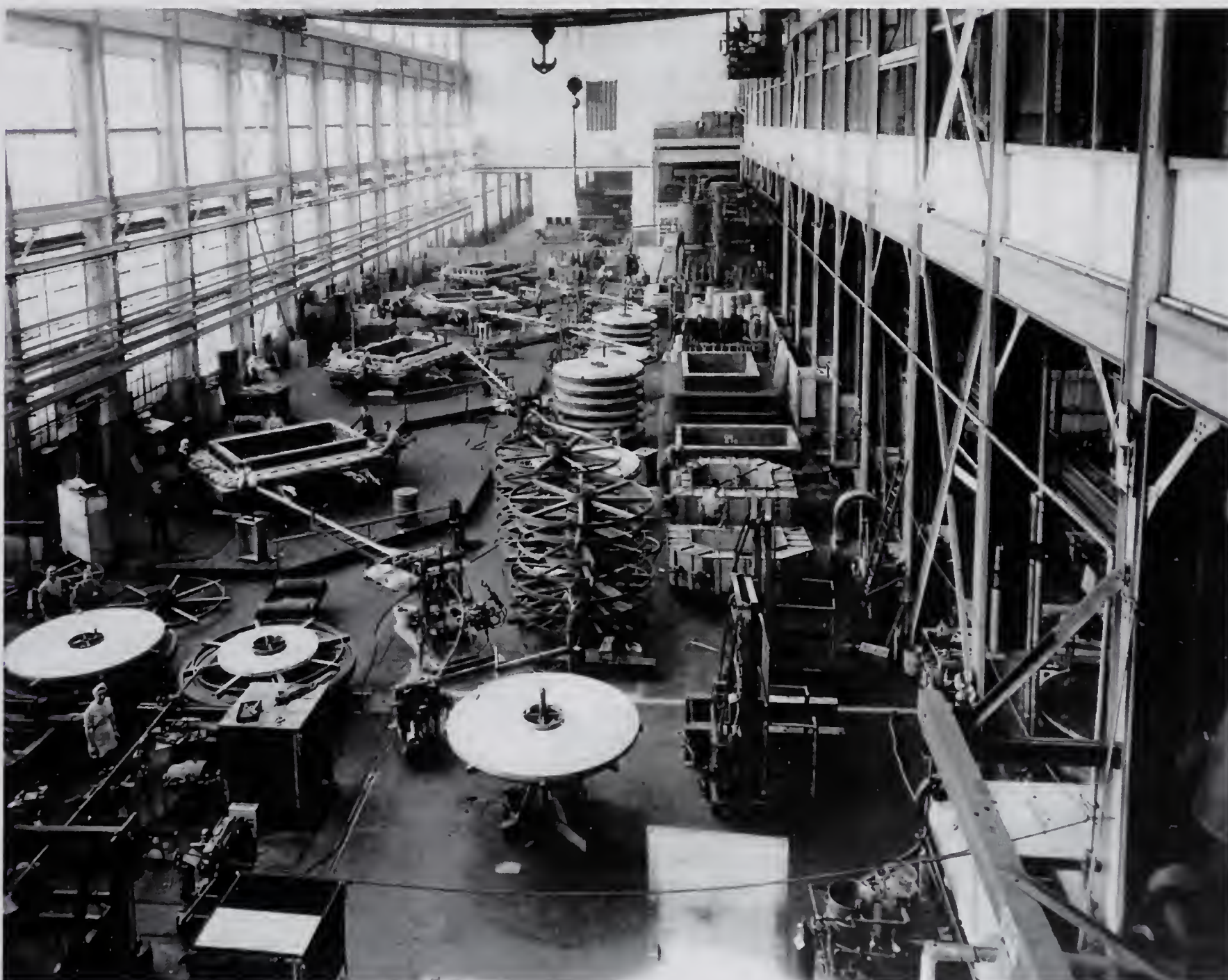


was working on other military projects, too. In fact, Allis Chalmers made three other components for the Manhattan Project besides the silver coils.

After the war ended, the understanding between the Treasury and War Departments was that the precious metal would be returned. It was, eventually, but the last of the silver wasn't transferred back to West Point until 1970. Though the process for making weapons grade uranium evolved away from use of electromagnetic coils, the coils were used to separate other atomic elements.

Today, the Hawley Works are long gone, as is Allis Chalmers. Their location on Hawley Road, just south of the Hank Aaron State Trail, is occupied by an office complex, Renaissance Place, which appears to have about the same footprint as the earlier building. Tenants in the complex include Johnson Controls, US Bank, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, and CBS 58. There's no sign that so much silver passed through there, but that's what makes history so much fun.

*This wartime photo at Allis Chalmers shows the magnet spools being wound with strips of silver. (Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society.)*







March Speaker Rev. Paul Bulgerin (r.) receives medal from President Justin Perrault in recognition of his presentation on ancient Roman coins and excavations at Vindolanda in Great Britain



Bruce Benoit (r.), MNS Fantasy Numismatics 2016 coordinator, presents silver award prize to 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner Don Kaminsky.